



# Preventing Perinatal Hepatitis B

## *Guidelines for Labor and Delivery Units*

From the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) Recommendations, December 2005\*



### AT THE TIME OF ADMISSION

- Review the hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAg) status of all pregnant women admitted for labor and delivery.
- Accept only laboratory reports as documentation of hepatitis B status. Avoid transcribed results.
- Perform HBsAg testing as soon as possible women without a documented HBsAg test result or if she has clinical hepatitis. Retest women who are known to have engaged in high risk behaviors for acquiring hepatitis B infection during pregnancy (e.g. recent intravenous drug use, an HBsAg-positive sex partner, more than one sex partner in the past 6 months, or treatment for a sexually transmitted disease).

### AFTER DELIVERY

#### **Infants Born to HBsAg-positive Mothers**

- Administer single-antigen hepatitis B vaccine & hepatitis B immune globulin (HBIG) within 12 hours of birth.
- Mothers may breastfeed without delay. Administration of HBIG & hepatitis B vaccine series should eliminate any theoretical risk of transmission through breastfeeding.

#### **Infants Born to Mothers with Unknown HBsAg Status**

- Administer single-antigen hepatitis B vaccine within 12 hours of birth (term & preterm infants).
  - Preterm infants weighing <2,000 g (4.4 pounds) should receive HBIG & hepatitis B vaccine within 12 hours of birth.
  - Term infants weighing  $\geq$  2,000 g should receive HBIG as soon as possible if the mother is determined to be **HBsAg positive**, but not more than 7 days after birth. Notify the infant's health care provider of the need to provide follow up.

#### **Infants Born to Mothers with Negative HBsAg Status**

- Administer a dose of single-antigen hepatitis B vaccine to full-term infants weighing  $\geq$ 2,000 g. before hospital discharge.
- At one month of age or hospital discharge, administer single-antigen hepatitis B vaccine to preterm infants weighing <2000 g.

### AT HOSPITAL DISCHARGE

- Give the infant's immunization record to the mother and remind her to take it to the infant's first healthcare provider visit. Use of regional immunization registries are encouraged to record infant hepatitis B immunizations.
- Notify the Los Angeles County Perinatal Hepatitis B Program of all births to women with positive or unknown HBsAg status within 24 hours of birth. Report forms can be found at <http://www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/ip/perinatalhepB/index.htm> or call (213) 351-7400.

\*<http://cdc.gov/mmwr/PDF/rr/rr5416.pdf>